

Why would anyone on this committee not vote for this bill? What it does is that it brings sunshine to all of the elections in this state. It encourages more of the electorate to participate in the voting process.

When I sat on the school board the subject of moving the local school board voting to the primary date in order to save money was objected to for the following reasons;

- 1). That the trustee vote would be too late in the year if it coincided with a mill levy vote. It was said that if the mill levy vote failed then the board would not be able to get another vote organized before the budget had to be finalized. However this was incorrect information given to the board then, as it is incorrect today. The present law, of which HB242 is attempting to amend, as stated in section 16, does not deny the ability of the school boards to hold mill levy votes at other times.
- 2). That this vote, being non-partisan, would be mixed in with partisan voting. However we must remember that judges are on the primary ballot, and they are non-partisan races and there have not been complaints about they being in the mix.

As the proposed amended sections of the law stand now, they state that the primary election will be the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May. That is the same day, this year that the local school district, here in Helena, will be holding their trustee election.

To argue against this bill would be to argue for holding elections that, at least in town, are poorly subscribed to and that only those with an interest in holding the greater public away from their school representation would want you to vote no. Thank you for your attention.

Jon Rush
HB242